IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) A method for treating fecal incontinence in a body of a mammal having a rectum formed by a rectal wall extending to an anus wherein the rectal wall includes a sphincter muscle surrounding the anus comprising the steps of introducing a biocompatible prepolymer into the rectal wall in the vicinity of the anus and polymerizing the biocompatible prepolymer in situ to form a nonbiodegradable solid in the rectal wall.

2. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the polymerizing step includes the step of forming a plurality of discrete nonbiodegradable solids in the rectal wall around the anus.

3. (previously presented) The method of Claim 2 wherein said polymerizing step includes forming a plurality of rod-shaped solids.

4. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the rectal wall includes an intersphincteric space and wherein the polymerizing step includes the step of forming said solid in the intersphincteric space.

5. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the rectal wall includes an anorectal border and wherein the polymerizing step includes forming at least one solid extending from the anorectal border to the anus.

Claims 6-8 (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the introducing step includes the step of introducing the biocompatible prepolymer into the sphincter muscle.

10. (previously presented) The method of Claim 9 wherein the sphincter muscle includes a sphincter ani internus and wherein the introducing step includes the step of introducing the biocompatible prepolymer into the sphincter ani internus.

Claim 11 (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) The method of Claim 9[[,]] wherein the sphincter muscle ~~including~~includes a sphincter ani externus[[,]] and wherein the introducing step includes the step of introducing the biocompatible prepolymer into the sphincter ani externus.

13. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the biocompatible polymer is part of a composition having a contrast agent for facilitating visualization of the nonbiodegradable solid in the rectal wall.

14. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the introducing step includes the steps of extending a needle into the rectal wall and supplying the biocompatible polymer through the needle into the rectal wall.

15. (original) The method of Claim 14 wherein the extending step includes the step of extending the needle from the rectal cavity into the rectal wall.

16. (original) The method of Claim 14 wherein the extending step includes the step of extending the needle through the perineum into the rectal wall.

17. (previously presented) A method for treating fecal incontinence in a body having an anal sphincter comprising the step of polymerizing a biocompatible prepolymer in situ to form at least one nonbiodegradable implant in said sphincter.

18. (previously presented) The method of Claim 17 further including the step of introducing a biocompatible prepolymer into said sphincter.

19. (previously presented) The method of Claim 18 wherein the introducing step includes the steps of introducing a needle into the sphincter and introducing the biocompatible prepolymer through the needle into the sphincter.

20. (original) The method of Claim 17 wherein said sphincter has a damaged portion, further including the step of bridging the damaged portion with the implant.

21. (previously presented) The method of Claim 17 wherein the anal sphincter has an internal sphincter and wherein the polymerizing step includes the step of forming the at least one implant in said internal sphincter.

Claim 22-25 (canceled).

26. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the biocompatible prepolymer is part of a composition having a biocompatible solvent.